

## **Amendments to the Claims**

Claims 1-56. (Cancelled).

57. (New) A method of handling abrasive solids materials used in an abrasive slurry cutting procedure, the handling method comprising or including the steps of:

catching the used abrasive slurry together with work piece kerf material in a catcher tank;  
passing at least some of the abrasive solids collected in the catcher tank as a slurry to a partitioning apparatus that includes a vibratory sieve;  
partitioning with said partitioning apparatus the slurry to provide at least two solids streams one of which passes through the sieve and one of which passes across the sieve whilst still entrained as a slurry;  
passing a pressurised or pressurisable slurry which includes the partitioned solids stream that has passed through the sieve to a nozzle for jetting; and  
cutting a work piece or the work piece using a high pressure abrasive slurry jetted from said nozzle.

58. (New) A method of claim 57 wherein there is a partitioning of the solids by the partitioning apparatus three ways, the aforementioned two solids streams and oversized solids that drop from the slurry that passes across the sieve and are at least initially retained on the sieve.

59. (New) A method of claim 57 wherein the solids passing to the nozzle are in the size range of from about 10% to about 70% of the nozzle diameter.

60. (New) A method of claim 57 wherein the passing as a slurry to the nozzle involves high pressure water expression from a pressure vessel.

61. (New) A method of claim 57 wherein said partitioning apparatus comprises or includes:

a housing having:

- i. a first inlet;
- ii. a first outlet; and
- iii. a collection zone or second outlet; and

a sieve disposed below said first inlet and said first outlet but above said collection zone or second outlet,

and wherein said first inlet is to receive and pass the slurry at a rate and velocity into the housing above the sieve such that at least some of the liquid component(s) of the slurry will, as a flow through, entrain small and/or less dense solids out through said first outlet,

and wherein the rate and velocity of intake into the housing via the first inlet above the sieve and the outflow via the first outlet is such as to enable solids not entrained out of said first outlet of sufficient density and of a size less than that of the oversized material to pass down through the sieve and, at least some oversize solids, when present, to settle on the sieve.

62. (New) A method of claim 61 wherein said sieve is a directly or indirectly shaken and/or vibratory sieve.

63. (New) A method as claimed in claim 57 wherein said partitioning apparatus has a collection zone and there is a valved flow path therefrom at a pressure vessel from which, as required at the nozzle, high pressure water can express the solids stream to pass to the nozzle.

64. (New) A method of claim 63 wherein there is controllable liquid and/or slurry flow path from said pressure vessel back to said collection zone of the partitioning apparatus capable of moving more solids as a slurry from said collection zone through, via the valved flow path, to said pressure vessel.

65. (New) A method of claim 57 wherein there is included the step of providing a replenishing feed of abrasive solids.

66. (New) A method of claim 65 wherein said replenishing solids are introduced into said catcher tank.

67. (New) A method of claim 57 wherein there is provided a solids agitation water feed into the catcher tank.

68. (New) A method of claim 57 wherein there is an overflow out take of at least water from the catcher tank.

69. (New) A method of claim 57 wherein a control system reliant on at least one sensor provides a control of valves and pumps thereby determining the modes of operation of the system capable of performing the method.